

PROSPECTS FOR AGRICULTURE IN '23

New Year's Statement and resume of Agricultural Condition and Prospects
From Secretary of Agriculture Wallace.

Twelve months ago most of the six million farmers of the United States were starting on the long hard climb out of the valley of economic depression. They have not yet attained the heights which are bathed in the grateful sunshine of prosperity.

Some, indeed, have fallen by the way. Others are still in the valley. Nevertheless, as we step a bit and look backward we can see that very considerable ground has been gained by the great majority, and we can enter the New Year with renewed hope and with that courage which comes from the realization that we are really making progress.

A year ago, when speaking of the prospects for farming in 1922, I said that while there was no reason to expect boom times for the farmer in the near future, there was promise of better times, both for the farmer and for those whose business is largely dependent upon him. The year has brought fulfillment of that promise. Speaking generally, times are better, much better, than a year ago, both for agriculture and for industry.

Crops have been good, on the whole. Prices of the major crops are mostly considerably higher. While there has been a corresponding advance in the prices of the things the farmer must buy, the total sum which farmers will receive for the crops this year is greater by a billion and a half dollars or more than that which they received for the crops of last year. This will certainly mean better times on the farm, and farm folks will be able to ease up a little on the grinding economy they were forced to practice the preceding year.

The labor cost of producing the crops of 1922 was still further reduced. There were some substantial reductions in freight rates. Much helpful legislation has been enacted and more will be this winter. Interest rates are lower and the credit strain has been eased. This has made it possible for many farmers who were rather heavily involved to refund their obligations and get themselves in condition to win through.

There are still some dark spots. In some sections weather conditions were unfavorable and crops were short, and farmers in these sections are having a very hard time of it. Freight rates are still too high, especially for those who must pay for a long haul to market.

Taxes are high, but this is largely due to the increase in local taxes, over which farmers themselves must exercise control.

There has been gratifying growth in farmers' cooperative marketing associations, and more of them are being organized on a sound business basis.

Aside from the help which has been given by legislation and by administration activities, strong economic forces are at work to restore a more normal relation between agriculture and other industries.

The peril in the agricultural depression is more keenly realized by other groups than ever before, and on every hand a sincere desire is being evidenced to do what can be done safely to help the farmer better his condition.

Everything considered, we have good reason to expect still better things for agriculture in the year 1923.

PRES. HARDING ENDORSED CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING

President Harding endorsed the co-operative marketing of farm products at the conference of the National Council of Farmers' Co-operative Marketing associations at Washington recently, according to W. L. Walker, president of the Oklahoma Wheat Growers' Association, who attended the meet as representative of the wheat farmers of Oklahoma.

President Harding said, "co-operative marketing among the farmers promises more for the present relief and permanent settlement of agricultural conditions than any other movement before the country."

The president stated he had sincere conviction to do every thing possible to aid agriculture but declared farmers themselves should co-operate to make the government's efforts doubly efficient.

"I know of no single movement that promises more relief than the co-operative marketing plan," Harding declared.

More than 235 co-operative associations in the United States were represented. Walker said. They represented crops that were marketed co-operatively and valued at one billion dollars annually.

Other government officials such as Capper, Meyer, Hoover and Miller endorsed the "co-op" plan and pledged their support it was said.

HOLLIS MAN IS SHOT BY 7-YEAR-OLD SON

E. N. Scruggs of Hollis was shot in the left arm Saturday afternoon by his 7-year-old son. The child was playing with a shot gun which was thought to be unloaded. He brought the gun into the room where his father was and in some manner it was accidentally discharged.

WOMAN ASSAULTED AND HER HUSBAND SHOT

Another Man Believed Fatally Wounded Resisting Arrest.

A drilling contractor from Ramona is in a Bartlesville hospital, believed fatally wounded. He is said to have been shot when he refused to surrender at Ramona to Charlie Sear, a special officer. A bullet lodged in his spine.

A party of five men committed an alleged assault Sunday night on the wife of a Tulsa man, who was visiting friends in Ramona during the holidays. Her husband is said to have been beaten into insensibility and shot once through the ear, being left on the road where the assault took place.

Two men were arrested and placed in the county jail at Bartlesville.

KNIGHTS TEMPLARS HOLD CHRISTMAS SERVICE

A large crowd witnessed one of the most impressive Knights Templar services ever seen here at the Knights' asylum Monday afternoon in observance of the birth of Christ. The Knights were in full uniform making a very impressive sight for the visiting Masons, their wives and members of the Eastern Star.

The service was opened by a prayer by the prelate, Sir Knight W. M. Cleveland. The Christmas sermon was delivered by Sir Knight W. M. Crutchfield, in which he paid the highest of all tributes to Christ, the Savior of all mankind. His subject was "If Christ Had Not Come."

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MONUMENTS

DURANT, OKLAHOMA

ENGINEER PREVENTS WRECKING HIS TRAIN

Stops When Headlight Shows Tampering With The Rails

An attempt Monday to wreck train No. 5 of the Santa Fe Railroad, a flier carrying mail and several Pullman cars bound for Texas and Oklahoma, was reported by the crew when the train reached Joliet, its first stop.

The engineer was slowing down for the station when he noticed several figures apparently working over the rails in the glare of the headlight and stopped so suddenly that passengers were thrown from their seats. He reported that an investigation disclosed that fourteen spikes had been drawn and the fishplates torn aside. One complete section of the rail had been loosened.

Railroad detectives who investigated expressed the belief that the wrecking of the train was planned by a gang of robbers who desired to get at the contents of the express car.

CALF HAD NO TAIL LIGHT

Because a Fresno farmer failed to hang a tail light on a calf, a motorist sues him for \$229 damages to his car, which complainant says collided with one "young, black cow or heifer at night, wrongfully, carelessly and negligently allowed to stray and roam the road, unaccompanied, and without any lantern, light or anything to warn the public of its presence." Calves must learn to obey traffic rules. In the meantime, what are headlights for?

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THREE CHILDREN INSTANTLY KILLED AT RAIL CROSSING

Trapped between two railroad crossing gates, three children were killed when the buggy in which they were riding was struck and demolished by a Pennsylvania passenger train near Ada Tuesday.

The lead are Catherine, 14, and Emerson, 16, children of L. T. Hull, and Irma Hedrick, daughter of Henry Hedrick, a neighbor of the Hulls.

The girls were returning home in the country from high school. Emerson Hull, who was employed in his father's saw mill, brought the girls to school each morning and drove them home in the evening.

GIRL BEATS HER DAD AS A RAISER OF COTTON

Myra Baldwin, daughter of J. W. Baldwin, a Tillman County farmer, raised almost as much cotton on three acres of land as her father did on forty acres, according to S. D. Johnson, farm demonstration agent.

Miss Baldwin, by intensive cultivation, produced two bales and 700 pounds of seed cotton; her father picked three bales.



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NEGRO SHOT BY KATY OFFICERS SUCCUMBS

George Gray, who was shot November 29, by three special agents of the Katy railway on a crowded Oklahoma City train just outside of Agra, died Saturday night at the University hospital in Oklahoma City from infection in the wounds, according to hospital authorities.

Joe Palmer, special agent and veteran policeman of Oklahoma City, is recuperating from wounds received in the hand and leg when the negro opened fire on the agents who had started to examine the contents of a suitcase for evidence implicating Gray in the robbery of the Katy station at Agra.

C. L. England and Ben Moore, Katy special agents, were not wounded in the fight.

Europe seems to be afraid that Turkey will demand an indemnity.

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK

Through its Officers and Directors

extend the Season's best Greetings to Everyone.

1923

GREETINGS

ONCE more we pass another milestone in the history of the world! Once more another year of progress in civilization! And once more we stand on the threshold of another year!

What 1923 will bring forth none of us can foretell. Such vision is not within our province. But every indication points to the fact that the work of reconstruction will proceed—go onward with a determination, known only to America.

We face the next 365 days with an optimism that is certain to bring us to the coveted goal—an optimism that will eventually make America a better and happier nation.

Let us remember that our goal can only be reached through co-operation, a unity of purpose and a feeling of brotherly love.

To you—our friends—we extend the greetings of the season!

The First National Bank
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